

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) It has been agreed in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organization (WTO) held in December, 2005, that the developing countries will have the flexibility to self-designate an appropriate number of agricultural commodities as Special Products guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. Once substantive discussions on these indicators are concluded among the member countries of the WTO, only then will reach developing country be able to use them to self-designate an appropriate number of Special Products.

Drop in seafood catch

3202. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming drop in seafood catch from the western coast this year especially along Kerala, Mangalore and Goa coasts;

(b) the reasons for this huge decline;

(c) what are the adverse affects on seafood industry on the fishermen, boat operators, ice factories, processing units, freezing plants and transporters; and

(d) how Government would ameliorate the sufferings of the above class and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The seafood production figures for this year 2006-07 has not been compiled by the Coastal States/UTs. The marine fish production for the last three years is given in Statement (see below). It is seen that there was no sharp decline in seafood production in the west coast:

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Statement***Trend of Marine Fish Production along the west coast***

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	Gujarat	609.14	584.78	663.88
2	Maharashtra	420.01	417.77	445.34
3	Goa	83.76	94.81	100.91
4	Daman & Diu	13.77	12.51	17.72
5	Karnataka	187.00	171.23	176.97
6	Kerala	608.52	601.86	558.91
7	Lakshadweep	10.03	11.96	11.96
TOTAL:		1932.23	1894.92	1975.69

Retaining of ICAR Research Centre at Kannara, Kerala

3203. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis on which Government had proposed in 2001 through ICAR that its Research Centre at Kannara in Kerala would be phased out;

(b) whether there were requests from many quarters, including from the State Government that this Centre should be retained and allowed to function better; and

(c) what is the status of this Centre today and what is the response to the requests for the Centre to be retained in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Research Centre at Kannara in Kerala was phased out on the basis of the recommendation of the Committee on Review of Regional Research Centres of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutions constituted by the Council to review the function and relevance of the Regional Stations. The Committee recommended to